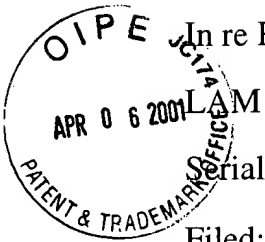


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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April 6, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Attention is directed to the attached PCT International Search Report for this application and each reference cited therein. A PTO-1449 is also attached.

Official consideration and citation of each such reference is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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